

46. In apparatus for processing wire, the combination comprising:

- a) conveyors for displacing the wire endwise, said conveyors including first upper and lower endless conveyors engageable with opposite sides of the wire,
- b) and wherein the conveyors include second upper and lower endless conveyors engageable with opposite sides of the wire, and spaced from said first upper and lower conveyors in the direction of wire displacement, and wire cutting blades located between said first conveyors and said second conveyors,
- c) and wherein said conveyors include endless belts having stretches extending in the direction of the wire displacement at opposite sides of the wire.

47. In apparatus, as defined in claim 46, the combination comprising:

- d) first upper and lower assemblies for carrying and controllably driving said first conveyors,
- e) there being at least one timing belt operatively connected with at least one of said assemblies to effectively transmit rotary drive to said first conveyors via said at least one assembly,

f) said at least one assembly including at least one driven timing pulley on which said at least one timing belt is entrained,

✓g) there being at least one drive motor, at least one driving timing pulley operatively connected with said at least one drive motor to be driven thereby, and said at least one timing belt being entrained on said at least one driving timing pulley.

48. In apparatus, as defined in claim 46, the combination comprising:

✓d) first upper and lower assemblies for carrying and controllably driving said first conveyors.

49. In apparatus, as defined in claim 46 the combination comprising:

d) first upper and lower assemblies for carrying and controllably driving said first upper and lower endless conveyors,

e) there being at least one first drive motor operatively connected with at least one of said first assemblies to drive said first upper and lower endless conveyors,

f) there being second upper and lower assemblies for carrying and controllably driving said second upper and lower endless conveyors,

g) there being at least one second drive motor operatively connected with at least one of said second assemblies to drive said second upper and lower endless conveyors.

50. In apparatus, as defined in claim 46, the combination comprising:

d) first upper and lower assemblies for carrying and controllably driving said first upper and lower endless conveyors,

e) there being at least one timing belt operatively connected with at least one first assembly to effectively transmit rotary drive to said first conveyors via said at least one first assembly,

f) said at least one first assembly including at least one driven timing pulley on which said at least one timing belt is entrained,

g) there being at least one first drive motor, at least one driving timing pulley operatively connected with said at least one first drive motor to be driven thereby, and said at least one timing belt

being entrained on said at least one driving timing pulley,

h) and there being second upper and lower assemblies for carrying and controllably driving said second upper and lower endless conveyors.

51. In apparatus, as defined in claim 46, the combination comprising:

d) first upper and lower assemblies for carrying and controllably driving said first upper and lower endless conveyors,

e) and there being a frame including a guide on which at least one of said assemblies is supported and guided for relative movement toward and away from the other assembly.

52. In apparatus, as defined in claim 46, the combination comprising:

d) first upper and lower assemblies for carrying and controllably driving said first upper and lower endless conveyors,

e) and there being second upper and lower assemblies for carrying and controllably driving said

second upper and lower endless conveyors.

53. In apparatus, as defined in claim 46,
the combination comprising:

- d) first upper and lower assemblies for carrying and controllably driving said first upper and lower endless conveyors,
- e) a frame including at least one guide supporting at least one of said first assemblies for guided movement toward and away from the other assembly,
- f) there being second upper and lower assemblies for carrying and controllably driving said second upper and lower endless conveyors.

54. In apparatus, as defined in claim 46,
the combination comprising:

- d) first upper and lower assemblies for carrying and controllably driving said first upper and lower endless conveyors,
- e) there being a frame including at least one guide supporting at least one of said first assemblies for guided movement toward and away from the

other assembly,

f) there being a force exerter for exerting yieldable force to urge at least one of said first conveyors toward the other and toward the wire,

g) there being second upper and lower assemblies for carrying and controllably driving said second upper and lower endless conveyors.

55. In apparatus, as defined in claim 46, the combination comprising:

d) upper and lower assemblies for carrying and controllably driving said upper and lower endless conveyors.

56. A method of processing wire having a sheathing to sever the wire thereby to form severed wire ends and to remove sheathing from each severed wire end, the method using two spaced apart pairs of endless belt conveyors gripping the wire on opposite sides to impart movement selectively to the wire to feed it in a forward direction and a rearward direction, each pair of endless belt conveyors being separately drivable in the forward and rearward

directions by at least one reversible conveyor drive motor, a blade assembly having two or more blades positioned between the spaced apart pairs of conveyors and relatively movable to sever the wire and to cut the sheathing on each severed wire end, at least one actuator connected to the blades, and an electrical controller connected to the at least one conveyor drive motor and to the at least one actuator, the method comprising the steps of:

- a) operating the electrical controller to operate the at least one conveyor drive motor and the at least one blade actuator in a controlled sequence to:
 - i) sever the wire into two sections,
 - ii) cut the sheathing at locations spaced from the two severed section ends, at least one section at a time, and
 - iii) cause the pairs of endless belt conveyors to displace said two severed sections, at least one section at a time, so as to effect stripping of the sheathing from each said section adjacent to its severed end, at least one section

at a time.

57. The method of claim 56 wherein at least one conveyor drive motor is operated to drive at least one pair of said conveyors to position the wire for two or more of said blades to sever the wire.

58. The method of claim 56 wherein at least one conveyor drive motor is operated to drive the endless belt conveyor pairs, at least one pair at a time, to position said two sections axially, at least one section at a time, to enable two or more of said blades to cut the sheathing at said locations spaced from the two severed section ends, at least one section at a time.

59. The method of claim 56 including

- i) positioning and operating one of said endless belt conveyor pairs to move one of said severed wire sections axially, so that the distance from the blades to the

severed end of said one of the severed wire sections equals a predetermined sheathing strip length,

- ii) and, positioning and operating the other of said conveyor pairs to move the other of said severed wire sections axially, so that the distance from the blades to the severed end of said other of said severed wire sections equals a predetermined strip length.

60. The method of claim 56 including operating said conveyor pairs to drive the wire in a forward direction past the blades so that the wire can be severed into said two sections to thereafter be displaced to effect said stripping.